

Michael Eure Show – Episode 55: Wake Tech Career Services

INTRODUCTION: Hello, this is Michael Eure, and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: Good evening, everybody. Welcome to the Michael Eure Show, and we have a great, great lineup of panelists for you today from the Career services area of Wake Tech. So, we're right now gonna briefly introduce ourselves, and I'm going to, well, I think I'll do it this way, and then then, then Sarah, after that, we'll do the links, and then we'll get into the questions. But everybody, I'm Michael Eure. And Jerry?

JERRY GREENE: Hi, my name is Jerry Greene. I'm a cybersecurity major here at Wake Tech, about to graduate. And I've been doing these, I've been participating in these virtual streams.

EURE: Very good. And Jerry's been excellent, and we're trying to find a replacement for you. So, Taj, who's in the island of Jamaica right now, go ahead.

TAJ HEWITT: Let's say I'm just visiting my home country, but my name is Taj Hewitt, and I am a Associate of Science student, going into my second year. And I was a student under Mr. Eure, and I help him with any needs that he may want. So, yeah.

EURE: And, and Taj just received the Scott Scholarship, too. All right, Larry Tucker?

LARRY TUCKER: Yeah. My name is Larry Tucker. I'm a career coach with the career exploration team here at Wake Tech Community College. And as a career coach, what I do is I provide, provide career coaching virtually and in person. I look forward to talking to you about different things that we can do, the career exploration team can do for you.

EURE: OK. Mia?

MIA KENNEDY: Hello. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for joining us. My name is Mia Kennedy, and I am a career coach as well. And I'm of the career exploration team with Larry, and I help students clarify a career goal, determine their major and help with career assessments.

EURE: OK. Lauren?

LAUREN BAMFORD: Hey, good evening, everyone. Thanks for joining us. My name is Lauren Bamford. I am the employer relations coordinator here in Career Services at Wake Tech. Essentially, I am connecting with all kinds of employers, understanding what their needs are and, and the job opportunities that they have. And then I'm connecting those opportunities with Wake Tech students and alumni.

EURE: Right. And Korrie?

KORRIE BLANCHARD: Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for having me. I'm Korrie Blanchard, the senior director of career and professional development at the college. I'm also a proud Wake Tech alumna. So, Jerry and Taj, I've been where you are and loved every minute of it. In career and professional development, we're basically working with students, alumni and community members to get them anything and everything they need to obtain and maintain employment.

EURE: OK. So, really quickly, and for the audience, if you have questions, ask them in the chat. Can we go through the Care Center link very quickly, Sarah? If not, we can just go right into the questions. OK. And the Career Center is the area where the success coaches are housed, but we are the – Care Center, I said career, Care Center – but we are doing COVID-19 funds, and this is gonna be put in the chat. It changes, but we do focus on giving out all kinds of money. We do laptops. We do, the Wake Tech wellness department is under us. Pathways, Fostering Bright Futures, OVAL, we're not gonna go through a lot of this, and The Nest, which I always tell students, this is Wake Tech's version of Instacart shopping. So, that's something you should use.

So, if we can click on student success coaching? And what that does, and we just want y'all to see that we always highlight you. We, scroll down a little bit, we have these nine main tiles, and Career Services is one. And these are the coaches, you can keep going. We've grown from two to 11 coaches, so we're gonna be able to serve a lot more students in the fall. And so, that's that, and we're just gonna go back up, and we can click on Career Services, just so that you would know, as people, that you can get, this is one way to get to Career Services. But it's not the only way. But if you click it, it should open up to the Career Services landing page. I don't think it did, but that's what it's supposed to.

So, we're finished with that, and now we could go on and start with the questions. And Jerry, you can ask the first question.

GREENE: All right. The first question is how, for anybody in any order, how long have you worked in this field and why?

TUCKER: Well, I guess I'll start. I'm, I guess I'm [indecipherable]. After I tell you how long I've been in this field, you understand why. I've been, I have over about 20 years, 20-plus years of experience, of career development experience. I worked from, as a career transitions counselor, a high school guidance counselor to a career coach. My passion has always been to help people identify their superpower and to identify what is it that they were born to do and then help them to do it. So, this is, this is who I am. This is part of my mission in life.

EURE: All right. Anybody else?

KENNEDY: I can go next. I'm Mia, and I am a career coach as well. And I have been doing this, counseling, for about 14 years. I've been a career coach for two years, and I've, I'm in this field because I truly help, I truly, generally love helping students find their path. I did that when, as a school counselor and now as a career coach. And it just warms my heart when students have that "aha" moment, like, "Oh, this is what I wanna do. This is, this is it." So, that is why I'm in this field, and I love what I do, and I love it here at Wake Tech.

BLANCHARD: I'll echo what Mia said. I absolutely love what I do. I've been working in this industry for about 15 years now, about eight solely focused on career and professional development at, for community college students. So, I've been doing that for about eight years. And why do I do it, is because it's all the help and assistance I wish I'd had when I was a student. I wish somebody had been there to help me find a job and help me understand what was a good fit for me. So, it's incredibly rewarding to get to do this work and to get to do it with such a special population that is a Wake Tech student.

EURE: Great. Thank you. Are you ready, Taj, for the second question?

HEWITT: Yes, of course. The second question is, what services are available to students?

EURE: And ...

BLANCHARD: So, I, oh, go ahead, Michael.

EURE: No, no. I know that all you work in different areas, so maybe each one can say something about your specific area.

BLANCHARD: Yeah. Perfect. So, in my area, you're supported by people who are called career specialists or adjunct instructors. And the services you can get for your career professional development, which, again, is anything that's going to help you attain or maintain employment, we have one-to-one appointments where students can get really targeted service. We also run workshops and events. They might be on, you know, how to set up and build your LinkedIn profile, or we might have a networking event where we bring in employers, kind of give you the chance to practice pitching yourself, that kind of thing. And then, we also actually run short courses for the community, students and alumni, and those courses are often free for those who qualify. And those classes can teach you things like resume writing, career exploration, different pieces that might aid you in your career development. So, those one-to-one support courses, workshops, events, all of it can be found here.

TUCKER: And for career exploration, we're doing career exploration, and services, I guess the best two words to describe it, describe us, is career clarification. What we do is we help you clarify your career goals and your career path. Our biggest focus is on helping students answer three basic career, career development questions: Who am I? Based on that answer to that question, what should I be doing in my life, make my life matter? And number three, how do I get there?

So, when you break those questions down, who am I is, is about self-assessment. We like to show, make students understand that they're unique personality. Their interests, their values and their skills play an important part in finding a career or job or occupation that fits them. And once we find out who you are, the next question is, what should I be doing with my life to make my life matter? This is what career exploration is about, and what we do is we have tons of, of, of, of tools and resources to help you find an occupation that matches who you are. We believe that the intersection of your personality, your interests, your values and skills are dozens of occupations and maybe two or more majors that match who you are.

And so, once we figure out what that major is – again, we've got tools to help you do that – the next question is how do you get there? So, this is about preparation. Finding the right program, program alignment. So, we help to find, help you to find, depending on where you are, which certification program, which diploma program, which degree program will help prepare you for that occupation that is right for you.

BAMFORD: So, I'm over here in employer connections, and we offer a few different resources and tools, again, with the goal to connect you with employers and connect you with the various job opportunities that, that they have. So, one of the major tools we have is we do have an online employment board through a platform called College Central Network, and I'll make sure that we pop that link in the chat soon here. But essentially, that is a job board where employers are looking specifically for you. They are looking for Wake Tech students and alumni, and so, they are posting on that board to find you. So, that's a pretty cool resource, simply because, you know, they're coming straight to you, to, to find you. They'll post anything from part-time, full-time opportunities to internships, apprenticeships, so that's a great resource if you are looking for any kind of employment opportunities. And you can go in there, and you can search by major, you can search by keywords, and you can search by location if you're looking to move away from the area, too. So, it's a, it's a great resource in that way.

We also coordinate info sessions with employers. So, we give you a chance to really connect with those employers face-to-face, whether that is virtually or in, in person, and so that you have a chance to really ask those folks what it's like to work at Dell, what it like to work at Credit Suisse and, and, and just get kind of an understanding of what the day-to-day life is. And then, in addition to that, we coordinate our larger career fairs. Those usually occur in the Spring semester. But in addition to those, we will have smaller hiring events throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, as well, as, as they come up. So, those are kind of the, the main resources and fools that that we offer.

EURE: OK. And we have a question in the chat, so we're gonna do that. That's from Professor Rasheed Graham. And who wants to do that? I'm gonna let Jerry do it. I know that, go ahead.

GREENE: All right. Professor Rasheed Graham asks, "What is the frequency of Career Services touching base with students during their prospective two-year tenure? Is it based on the student's initiative of continuing, continuing the relationship?"

BLANCHARD: That's a great question. Thank you so much for asking that. So, a lot of the continued relationships that happen with students through Wake Tech's Career Services are actually in collaboration with faculty and program areas. So, for instance, a student might have started with us through career exploration, not sure what their major is, clarifying that career goal, as Larry said earlier. But then, when they do select their program, a lot of our collaborations are built around that program.

So, for instance, they may have us come in to talk to students about resume writing, interviewing. They may have Lauren, Lauren's team come in and have an employer do an info session, offer to have a career fair for their area. It's really targeted toward what that program and faculty need and want, and anything outside of that is at the initiative of the student. And the services also extend into alumni, so I wanted to call out that. You know, we said their prospective two-year tenure, but it can be endless. So, their services can actually continue, and we've had quite a few take advantage of that as they've changed careers in the future or reach back out to us to gain a better position.

EURE: OK. So, we are gonna keep on asking questions. Do you want to do the next one, Mia or Taj, whichever one?

HEWITT: Yes. So, when it comes to all these services that are available, how can students actually access the services?

TUCKER: When, I think I'll take, take that. To be able to access the services, all you have to do is go to, this this was, to several ways. One way, you go to wake, sorry, careers.waketech.edu. careers.waketech.edu. And you can make a virtual appointment if you go to careers.waketech.edu. If you simply go to Student and Alumni and you click on where it says "Book an Online Career Exploration, Exploration Appointment," and from there, you can, you can make an appointment to see a career coach. You can make an appointment to take a career assessment. And if you want to talk to somebody from the [indecipherable] team about a job search, resume, you can do that as well. If you wanna see somebody in person, with the Career Lens Lab, the Career Lens Lab, we have a Career Lens Lab located on just about every campus, and this is usually a physical lab and you can come in and get, get help. No appointment is necessary. We are available at most campuses. On the north campus, we are mostly available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock. Again, no appointment is necessary, but if you want to make an appointment, you go to careers.waketech.edu and make an appointment.

EURE: And I'd like to follow up that, Larry. These hours you're talking are for the summer. But in the fall, will it change?

TUCKER: I ...

EURE: The Career Lens Lab.

TUCKER: The Career Lens Lab would probably continue those, those hours. Yeah, this hasn't been any discussion on changing it. We want, one of the things that we're trying to, to keep is consistency, and so, we will probably be consistent in terms of keeping those same hours.

EURE: OK, thank you. All right, next question.

BAMFORD: And I just wanted to add on to that, Michael, if I could. So, to access some of the resources that I was talking about in employer connections, we did pop the link to the job board in the chat. So, you can access College Central Network there, and to learn about any of the different info sessions that we are putting on, you can follow us on Twitter at @waketechcareers or on Instagram at careerservices.waketech. And we'll also post some of those events on our College Central Network site as well.

TUCKER: Michael, let me clarify something. In addition to the Career Lens Lab hours, that I, I, I told you were Tuesdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please understand as well that we are available virtual, virtually, just about every day, Monday through Friday. And I believe that we sometimes have someone, someone on Saturday that can help you as well. So, if you go to careers.waketech.edu, you can see what our schedule is.

EURE: Thank you very much, and students ...

BLANCHARD: Michael ...

EURE: OK, go ahead.

BLANCHARD: Michael, we have evening appointments, too. And just to help the students who are listening understand the navigation, when you visit careerservices.waketech.edu, you click what describes you. So, there's a Prospective Students button, a current Student and Alumni button. There's a button for employers there. It's very easy to find what you're looking for. Just self-identify if you're a student or alumni or a prospective student, and you'll find all the links you need to access our services.

EURE: OK. Well, we're moving right along. Whoever wants to do the next question, and I'm doing round-robin with Jerry, Taj and Mia, even though she's doing two things. But who's next? Is it Mia?

KENNEDY: Yes. I can ask the next question. Who is eligible for these services? I know we mentioned it earlier, but if you guys wanna just mention it again, who's eligible for the services?

BLANCHARD: I can start that one, Larry, since it's anybody and everybody. Right? That's our answer. We really try to do our best in Career Services to serve our community at large. So, even if you are just considering Wake Tech and uncertain if it's the right fit for you, you're eligible for our career exploration services and our short courses that are open to the community. So, the only things that get limited are some of our employer events, which Lauren can chime in on, and then our one-to-one services that are job preparation – so, resume writing, interviewing. You have to be a current student or an alumni, and alumni we use in a very broad sense of the term. If you have completed any program at Wake Tech, so even if that was just a couple courses, you are eligible for our services whenever you need them in the future.

TUCKER: Sometimes we'll see high school juniors and seniors. Sometimes we'll see people, senior citizens, who are returning to the workforce or just maybe taking some courses in terms of, of, of, of personal enrichment. So, there is really no limit. We, our doors are wide, wide open, and, and anyone can come make an appointment, either virtually or come in person.

EURE: Thank you. And for the audience, again, if you have any questions or comments, please post them in the chat, and we'll get to it. So, now we're back to you, Jerry.

GREENE: All right. So, the question is, does Career Services provide workshops for students? And if so, what are some of the topics?

EURE: And some of these questions you may have answered, but we need to hear it again.

BLANCHARD: So, in Career Services, we offer a really wide variety of workshops. We really try to meet the students where they are, so there's no prescriptive one-size-fits-all workshop that we offer. Our career exploration team comes up with really cool events that they might run that just sparks your interest in, maybe, informational interviewing or exploring your career. We also run workshops independently where anyone can drop in, like salary negotiation or LinkedIn lab, and all of those are published on our website and our social media. So, that's where you can access them. If you're a current student who uses Xtra or the – It is called Xtra now, right,

Michael? Correct me if I'm wrong. OK, so xtra.waketech.edu, that's where we post a lot of our events as well. Sometimes they are in collaboration with faculty, as we mentioned earlier, and those may be limited. But the workshops are offered throughout the year, and, for the most part, are accessible by anyone currently enrolled. Some are available to alumni as well.

EURE: OK.

TUCKER: I want to kind of add to that is that we, we, we do have a lot of careers, career risk explorations does workshops as well. We have a workshop so, such as the art of storytelling to help you prepare for an interview or to help you to formulate your elevator speech. We have career spotlights where we spotlight different careers. I think today we had one on creative careers. We have some on STEM. The beauty of that, too, is you can actually go online because they're recorded. You go online, and if you go to, go on the website careers.waketech.edu, go to tools, and then you go to webinars, you can see those webinars. We record those webinars as well. So, yes, we have those workshops as well.

EURE: And this question is is one I just wanna ask because I know that you do what I call field trips, and you've been doing virtual visits to companies and things like that. Can you kind of talk about that a little bit? How can students sign, become part of those activities?

TUCKER: We do what we call industry, oh, I'm sorry, were you going to say something, Lauren?

BAMFORD: No, you go for it, Larry.

TUCKER: We, career explorations does have what we call industry road trips, where we take students, a busload of students to different, different industries, different companies. We took some students one time to, to Red Hat, where they can see different, different types of jobs and opportunities, ask questions about internships. We even have one called careers in sports, where we took students to Charlotte to meet with the Charlotte Hornets team, as well as in our own backyard, Carolina Hurricanes. So, they're able to, students were able to find out all types of different jobs that these companies and institutions have. So, we try to bring students to the employer, and when we can't do that, we try to do something virtually as well.

BAMFORD: And I'll just add up to that, Larry, that that we also coordinate employer field trips and employer connections. We are, you know, transitioning back to doing

them purely in person. We were able to do one last semester where we actually just went across the street on South Campus and went to the 540 construction site there and got to speak with a various different contractors who were, who were working on that project. So, that was, that was pretty special, and we are, we are hoping to do, do more industry field trips in the future, and, again, those get posted on kind of the same places that I was discussing where, where the various events and info sessions will be will be posted, And if they are very program-specific, you'll probably get them straight to your email inbox from me as well.

EURE: OK. And we do have some comments and questions and the chat. If we can get an opportunity, we can kind of go through some of those. And if not, we can come back. OK, Rex Xum, and this is, and I'll, I'll let Jerry or, or Taj, whichever one wants to read that.

HEWITT: Yeah, sure. So, Rex Xum is saying, "True or false, it's important to make sure you're enrolled in a class on an online class at Wake Tech."

EURE: I think they mean to use your services, maybe.

HEWITT: Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

BLANCHARD: So, that is actually false for some services. So, that's the beauty of it. They are, our services are available to prospective students and alumni, as well as community members. So you, there are services you are eligible for even if you are not currently enrolled at Wake Tech.

EURE: That's good. And this is from Professor Graham again. Which, who wants to, Jerry for Mia? Either one. Jerry?

GREENE: Which, Mia can do it, I'm sorry. I know she wants to do it.

KENNEDY: OK. "Does Career Services display data on students who have successfully gained employment in their field of study? I believe this could help bridge the cognitive gap for students."

EURE: All these good questions.

BLANCHARD: I hope that'll bridge the cognitive gap for students. That's a great idea. So, we do have data available that covers the outcomes of students when they graduate from their programs. It is not published publicly because of just the privacy

of the students, because it is tied to them. No one has disaggregated that to, to be able to share it. However, we do have a new feature on the Career Services website thanks to Wake Tech strategic plan. Thanks to our Reach and Rally plan, there is now salary data on our website that is accessible by anyone, and that is tied to North Carolina data. So, students can see what they could expect to make or earn both fresh out of school and with a few years of experience, directly on our website in addition to that data being accessible through a tool like Career Coach. But as far as actual outcomes, as where people have gone, that information could be available in a one-to-one appointment with a career coach or career specialist. They could share that information with a student, but it's not available publicly on the website.

EURE: All right. Thank you. And I do like what Garla Glover Smith says, that you serve EFL students and College and Career Readiness students. And I think that's very important.

BLANCHARD: Yes, I wanted to call that out, actually. Thank you, Garla, for putting that in the chat. I wanna make sure everyone who's listening to us understands that, when we say current students, we mean enrolled in any program at Wake Tech. It does not have to be a curriculum program, a Workforce Continuing Education program or even just a short course you're taking. If you are enrolled in any program at Wake Tech, and that includes EFL, ESL and CCR, you are eligible for our services.

EURE: And if I don't say it enough, this is one of the most important office at Wake Tech. All right, Laura Bethea. It's back to you, Jerry.

GREENE: Laura Bethea says, "Yay! Industry road trips."

EURE: Thanks, Laura. Laura Bethea again. Taj?

HEWITT: She comes in, and she says, "Experiential learning is vital to career success." Giving a bit of advice, you could say.

EURE: And I meant the say Dr. Laura Bethea. All right, Mia?

KENNEDY: And this is our, one of our colleagues, Sonya Hayes. "There's nothing more special than a great job-shadowing experience." Yes.

EURE: OK. Well, we are kind of coming to a point where I guess we wanna talk about the job placement piece. And I know that you help, but you help students at all stages, help them find employment, don't you?

BLANCHARD: So, that is correct. We definitely don't use the words job placement. It is kind of limiting, that we never want students or alumni to feel like we just have this list, and we're gonna say, "OK, pick one of these." We really work closely with students and alumni to help them kind of unlock or, you know, discover what their ideal job is. So, really doing work with them on how to find opportunities, how to apply for those opportunities, interview for them and land those jobs as well. So, definitely no job placement going on in our office. All of the tools we're giving you, we want them to be able to carry you through beyond Wake Tech. So, it's definitely not a, "Oh, here's a job. Let's match you with this one." We're gonna give you the tools on how to do that for yourself forever.

TUCKER: In addition, we have our own job board. A lot of people don't know that. We have our own job board, called College Central Network. Wonderful employers, like Lauren, employee, employee specialists, they go out and find these jobs and internships. When they get that information, they put that on College Central Network, and for those students who are who are credit students, they have an opportunity to access that information. So, that's another perk to become a student at Wake Tech Community College.

EURE: And another thing that we talked about before with Career Services is sometimes volunteering is a good way for you to understand whether or not you wanna be in a particular career. So, you also help students find those kind of opportunities as well, right?

BLANCHARD: We can also help students with informational interviewing. So, when students are considering a career or considering a field for them, we can help them navigate that, teach them to, the tools for informational interviewing and potentially set them up with people who can provide them with that insight. So, that's kind of even pre-volunteering or pre-exposing yourself to that industry. That's work our teams can do as well.

EURE: OK. Any other comments? And if not, we can go on to another question. I think it's Taj's turn. If not, any, anybody jump in. And do any of you have anything you want to share that we haven't talked about yet?

GREENE: Well, I think my, his mic is muted. I'll ask the next question then. Are there any, are there one-on-one appointments available for students, alumni and the community?

TUCKER: Yes, they are available one-on-one online. Just go to careers.waketech.edu. I sound, I sound like a broken record. [Careers.waketech.edu](https://careers.waketech.edu) and you can do an online virtual appointment. You can do a virtual appointment with any career coach. If you, if you're just kind of trying to figure out, you're not really sure where to start, you have something in mind, we had this wonderful tool called "What can I do with this major?" If you have a major you're interested in, you wanna find out, "What can I do with that major?" we can show you what you can do with that major.

If you are just looking for some of courses for personal enrichment, we have a lot of non-credit courses through H, work, Workforce Development and HRD, which will allow you to do personal enrichment, whether it be something like defensive driving or you wanna take a take a course in sign language. So, yeah, we have all kinds of, of, of courses that you can take, and if you wanted some information, you wanna talk to a career coach, just go to careers.waketech.edu and click on "Book a virtual or online appointment."

EURE: And, and I hope that careers.waketech.edu is in our chat. If not, we'll try to find it and make sure it's in there. Y'all have been really great, and, and I don't think it's always bad when you give all your information so quickly. Do we have any more questions that we need to ask? Because, if not, the audience, I think they seem quite satisfied. We can begin to close it down. But does anybody have any other questions? Do you see any others that you might wanna ask?

BLANCHARD: I want to touch on one that's over in the in the area that you gave us ahead of time: Is there a cost for these services? And I did just wanna point out that, no, there is no cost for these services, from our one-to-one appointments, where you are really getting incredible service that, these career exploration appointments or these, you know, resume writing services would cost you a fortune in the real world. These coaches are not cheap in the real world, and Wake Tech providing this for you is such a great resource. So, please take advantage of it while you're enrolled or as an alumni. Please just remember that these services are here for you and at no cost?

EURE: Thank you, Korrie. And we had a guest, and Mia was there when we had the gentleman that was in Supply Chain Management and his wife worked with Duke,

N.C. State, getting our information, and she had said for him to make sure he told us that Wake Tech has better services than any of these other four-year schools. So, y'all do an incredible job, and I think it's just awesome, and the people just need to know how much you do. And, and this Determine a Major, Clarify a Career Goal, two of the most significant workshops for students or prospective students because it puts them in the right major from the beginning, because students change their major.

Larry, I don't know, you probably know better than I. I know it's at least 50% of our students change it at least one time, and that's because they don't. That's not, that's me saying, I don't, I think, if they did the career assessments first, or they determined a major or clarified a career goal, they wouldn't say they wanna be an engineering major and not like math because they would know, "I have to do math to be an engineering manager." So, it's not that, there's not a comparable major. And anything that you do that you like, you're gonna make money at it, I think.

TUCKER: Mike, you, you're totally right about that, but I think it's a little bit higher. I think it's, like, close to 65%, 70% students who change their major, and we can avoid that if they stop at the Career Lens Lab or, or make an appointment with a career coach and make sure that you are where you need to be. We want to make sure we put square pegs in square holes and make, and making sure that you have the right, right program.

I did want to say one thing about our HRD classes. Some of our HRD classes, there are a, there is a fee associated. However, 90% of students and prospective students can qualify for a fee waiver. If you are unemployed or underemployed or having or facing a pending layoff, you can qualify for a fee waiver. So, just wanna make sure you put that out, make that clear.

EURE: OK.

KENNEDY: And just to kind of piggyback on what Larry said, our services are, well, actually, this was a question from Laura Bethea. Actually, if you wanted to post her question, "Are these services time-limited?" And the answer is no. You can utilize our services as often, as frequently as you need to. We are always here for you every step of the way. So, when you are looking to enroll with us until the time you graduate, Wake Tech Career Services is always here for you. So, there's no time limit and max number of appointments to use our services.

HEWITT: And we also have a question from J.S., and she's asking, "Are the in-person, one-on-one appointments offered at each Wake Tech campus? Or is there one specific campus that it's mostly offered at?"

BLANCHARD: That's a great question. So, all of our campuses are covered, at least to some extent. It may only be one day a week currently; it may be five days a week. So, it varies campus to campus, except for our Western Wake Campus, which is the campus that's in Cary. Sometimes it's abbreviated Millpond. We do not have staff on that campus. But the rest of the campuses, you can see someone from Career Services there in some capacity.

TUCKER: When in doubt, go to careers.waketech.edu and look for the schedule to find out where we have a staff person available for one-on-one services.

BLANCHARD: And your best bet is always to do what Larry just said and to book an appointment. Our walk-in services really became limited after COVID kind of, sent us all home in 2020. So, it's, it's a little difficult to kind of navigate the walk-in services. But our appointments are available days, evenings and on Saturday. So, really, there's a time that will work for you, and you can book it virtually or in person. So, it's really up to you. I promise you, there's a time out there that will serve you, and, if not, you can reach out to careerservices@waketech.edu and let them know you can't find a time that works for you, and someone will get back to you to figure out what will work.

EURE: And I do wanna chime in from previously working with Wake Tech online. Before the pandemic, Wake Tech was the number one online community college in the United States, and we had about a third of our students online. I don't think we're gonna, in my opinion, go below 50%. So, I think those services are vital because those are students just like the ones that are physically on campus. And I get great feedback from every student that I sent to Career Services, whether it's one-on-one, walk-in, the Career Lens Lab, they never have anything bad to say. So, I thank you for all you do to serve. And the career coaches, you know that your cousins are the success coaches, OK?

Well, we are getting ready to wind it down, but then we have another question. Well, several. Rex Xum, he's asking this, and I'm gonna try to address it. He was told that, if he fails a class, he can't retake it. Right? Well, that's very wrong. So, you need to kind of come to Academic Advising or, and I think, if your major is one of the Associate in Applied Science – and I believe he's in Graphic Design – you can talk to your faculty adviser. But I don't think that's true.

Laura Bethea. Who wants to take that?

GREENE: Laura Bethea says, she asks, "How can faculty connect to the students?" Oh, I'm sorry, "How can faculty connect their students to Career Services?"

KENNEDY: I could take that one. So, faculty can, of course, visit careers.waketech.edu. They also can email one of our senior directors, or they can just email careers@waketech.edu to get help assisting, connecting their students. But they can always just point their students to our website.

EURE: I'm gonna ask a question, and I wanna remind the audience, if you have any, ask them in the chat. Can you tell us of any upcoming big events, like career fairs coming up in the fall? And if you don't have any planned right now – if you're like our department, we're gonna be planning very soon – but you do some big things. Tell us about those career fairs. What are they like? What does the student need to come there with?

BAMFORD: Sure. So, I can start this one off. So, again, our big career fairs are gonna be in the Spring semester. They will be, our first two will be in February, and then we usually have one in March and one April. And they will be divided by program of study. So, you will go to the career fair that best suits your program, and you're going to find employers there that you are going to want to connect with. We will be having them in person this year. So, the last two years, we, we had them virtual. So, they're gonna look a little different back in person this year. They'll be on South campus in the, the conference rooms in Building L, and we will have probably close to 100 employers, and they'll each have their own booth.

And you will have about three hours to wander through at your leisure and speak with different representatives from different companies, get an understanding of, of what their opportunities are, but also kind of present yourself to those companies. That's your opportunity to kind of show what you're bringing to the table, as well and do some all-important networking, get some contact. So, if you are looking for an employment opportunity right then and there, you know, maybe you've got a contact that you can follow up with. But even if you're not looking for a job right at that moment, those connections are so, so important because you will be looking for one eventually, and it'll be great to have some industry contacts kind of in your back pocket. And so, so, that's kind of what those, those career fairs will look like. We don't have any planned for the fall just yet, but those, we might still have some small hiring events in the fall.

BLANCHARD: And loads of other then in the fall, including National Career Development Month, which is in November. We always have a ton of really cool programming there. So, definitely get in the habit of checking our website, careerservices.waketech.edu, or going into your xtra.waketech.edu and seeing what events we have coming up, because there definitely will be something for you. We will also be at the welcome resource weeks, happening right when students come back in August. Those are happening, I think, the first two weeks students are back, one day each week, I believe. They might be in the same week. But you can find Career Services, they are representing. You can come by and say hi and learn more about our services.

EURE: And, and I would add, using your services will prepare them for those career fairs, too. All right, that was good. We are winding down, I want you all to know. But I want to see if we have any more questions, Taj or Jerry or Mia?

HEWITT: Well, yeah. I think we have a question from Dr. Laura. I think it was the chat. She's asking, "How can faculty connect their students to Career Services?"

EURE: Well, we did it, Taj.

TUCKER: I think we, I think we answered that.

HEWITT: Oh, wow.

TUCKER: Go to, if you go to our web, webpage, again, careers.waketech.edu, click on Faculty and Staff, and you will see a link that, which will tell you how to request a presentation.

EURE: Well, I, I mean, it's OK, Taj. We know you're in Jamaica, and ain't no telling what's going on. You might have missed that?

HEWITT: Yeah. Yeah, delay, you know. It's a delay.

EURE: I have thoroughly enjoyed it. All of you have done an exceptional good job of sharing information, and for the audience, it will be available perpetually. But we're gonna close out now by everyone kind of giving their closing statement. Gonna start with Jerry, then Taj, then Jerry, then Mia, ten Lauren and then Korrie. So, each of you about a minute or less, OK?

GREENE: All right. I don't have much to say. I know I'm about to, I'm really close to graduating around the end of this month, but I know, when I first came to Wake Tech, I wish I'd been more aware of the Career Services aspect and how they can help you find the major that you're looking for. Because when I first came in, I came in wanting to do engineering. I didn't like math, so, of course, I got out of there. And I'm now in Cybersecurity, but I think Career Services is a really good resource for students to use.

EURE: Thank you. Taj?

HEWITT: Yeah, and just to add on to what Jerry had to say, a lot of students come to college, and they don't know exactly what they want to do. So, I think Career Services is an excellent resource for providing information for students and how they can find exactly what, what they want to do. And I think Michael Eure is a great advocate for Career Services. I think he does a lot, and I want, I just want to give a round of applause for that as well.

EURE: Well, thank you, Taj. And I think that students like you are a great resource for all of us because we need you to be success coach outreach ambassadors and let them know of all these resources. And that's what Jerry was, and you're gonna be the next one. You've been knighted already. Larry?

TUCKER: Thank you so much, Jerry and Taj, for your comments. And yes, I have to ditto that Michael Eure is probably one of our best ambassadors for Career Services.

I just want to say that, if you're somebody kind of like Jerry was, where you are really not sure, you know, whether you're in the right major or you don't have a clue as to what you might want to major in, or you're somebody who, you know what you want to major in but I'm not really sure what I can do with this major, or you're somebody who's saying, you know, "I know what I wanna do, but I don't know what I need. A certification? Do I need a diploma or the, which degree do I need?" Please come in and make an appointment with a career coach so we can help you clarify your career goals and clarify your career path.

EURE: All right. Thank you. And before you go, Mia, we have a question in the chat. So, we can let you ask that question first.

KENNEDY: Alrighty. Jessie Mae asks, "Will it be harder for me to get employed since I've never had a job before? Thank you for this great information." You're welcome. Does anyone on the team want to answer this question?

BLANCHARD: I'll answer this for you, Jessie Mae. And thank you so much for asking it because this is a question the Wake Tech community asks all the time. You are not alone in thinking that you've never had a job, you're not going to be able to get a job. But we in Career Services are huge believers that all experience counts, and one of the things that we can really help you understand is how to articulate that experience. You may have, even if it was unpaid employment, it may be things that you did like caring for a family member. It may be things you did through volunteering with your community or religious organization. We can help you understand how all of that experience counts, in addition to the incredible experience you're gaining as a student at Wake Tech. So, everything you're learning in the classroom and applying in the classroom, we can help you understand how to articulate that, both on a resume but also in interviewing with employers, really help you build your confidence around that you do have the experience that they're looking for. It just may not be coming through paid work experience in the past. So, definitely seek us out because we would love to show you how you do have what they're looking for.

EURE: All right. Thank you. We're down to the last minute. So, Mia, Lauren and Korrie, real quick.

KENNEDY: OK, I'll be quick. Thank you all for watching this show today, and please reach out to us at careers.waketech.edu, set up a one-on-one appointment or visit us in person. We are here for you guys, and we're here for you, to help you succeed.

BAMFORD: I'll be really quick as well. Thank you. Thank you so much for joining us tonight. Michael, thank you so much for having me. This has been wonderful. Students and, and alumni and anyone who's listening, I'm very excited to be able to meet you in person these upcoming semesters. I hope that, that I'll see you at some of our employer events, at our career fairs, and I just look forward to meeting you.

EURE: And I do want to just recognize one last comment from David Kwan. And David Kwan was one of my first students, and he, well, he was in my second year, but he now is working on his master's at N.C. State in aerospace engineering. But he says, "Wonderful. An insightful show. And stay cool."

And Dean Lynn: "Thanks for your contributions, Mia, Lauren and Korrie." All right, so now we're back to you, Korrie. Sorry.

BLNCHARD: It's fine. I'm just gonna leave you with the words of the icon Mariah Carey: Don't forget about us. That's all we need. We just need you to remember we're here to help you.

EURE: Thank you. And we'll see you again next month, hopefully. But right now, we're gonna say goodbye, and all good things come to an end.